***Close Reading and Examination of the Text***

*Group Activity*

Close reading is the process of re-examining a short passage and asking critical questions about it. We spend so much time discussing content that, at times, form is forgotten. So this activity encourages you to dissect the text formally, examining word choice, syntax, and style.

Directions: Divide the class into five groups. Each group examines a different passage. Look for and report back on the following:

**a. examples of literary devices—for example, simile, metaphor, foreshadowing, and irony—and for diction and syntax**

**b. how the paragraph fits into the chapter as a whole**

**c. how the paragraph advances our understanding of plot, theme, setting, character, or symbolism**

***Passages to examine:***

1. “The rain cooled about . . . two minutes to four.” Take a look at those four paragraphs.

2. “Gatsby, his hands still . . . his chin in his hand.” Take a look at those two paragraphs.

3. “I walked out the back way . . . obstinate about being peasantry.” Take a look at this one paragraph.

4. “He hadn’t once ceased . . . and began to laugh.” Take a look at those two paragraphs.

5. “If it wasn’t for the mist . . . diminished by one.” Take a look at those two paragraphs.

Note: Not every passage contains all of the aforementioned traits.